



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish, From
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SALIX BARRATTIANA **BARRATT'S WILLOW**

Barratt's Willow is a much-branched shrub that is up to 1 m tall. Young twigs are sticky and covered with long, soft hairs. The leaves have petioles that are 5-14 mm long and entire, elliptic or broadly lance-shaped blades that are 4-7 cm long, densely covered with long, gray hair beneath and thinly so above. The spike-like inflorescence is erect and sessile on twigs formed during the previous year. The male and female catkins occur on separate plants. The seed capsules are hairy, and the bracts subtending them are black. The female catkins are 4-9 cm long, while the male catkins are 2-5 cm long. Mature fruit in July-August.

The alpine habitat, sessile catkins, and sticky twigs distinguish *SALIX BARRATTIANA* from most other species in our area. A hand lens and technical key are needed for positive identification.